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Joe

John

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Comments, [REDACTED] Working Group on Foreign Language Documents

The final report of the Working Group recommends establishment by CIA, under NSC directive, of an organization to perform certain common bibliographic and translation services for IAC agencies; that coordination of IAC activities in the fields of translation and bibliographic service be provided through the establishment "by appropriate authority of a Foreign Language Board consisting of a representative of each IAC agency..."

a. Bibliographic service:

All six of the activities proposed for this Service are being performed today in the IAC with varying degrees of effectiveness. Questions of scope and coordination are under continuous discussion and excellent overall plans could be pulled together in relatively short order. The attack has been and will remain piecemeal until NSC settles the question of "chosen instrument" among IAC members or until CIA concludes that it has sufficient authority to warrant the financing of an operation which will be effective enough to pull the rest of the IAC into its orbit. Two examples:

Recommendation (4) would provide the basis for systematic collection through briefing. What is needed is beefed-up field collection - adequate staff with full language and intelligence training in each major publishing area supported by plenty of vouchered and unvouchered funds. This machinery could not only guarantee immediate response to new intelligence requirements as well as perform proper "scouting" for the IAC but it would, also, produce the accessions lists envisioned in recommendation (1), eliminate the confusion that comes now from multiple briefing of multiple collectors and assure the union catalogers (recommendation (3) full coverage of receipts.

Recommendations (2) and (6) propose central bibliographic services. CIA Library already provides limited service of this nature to other IAC members. G2 Library would be willing to stop indexing of non-Army documents immediately and to rely on CIA Reference, however, for CIA to accept this traffic (and that of other IAC members subsequently if this proved effective) a substantial increase in library staff would be essential.

b. Translation service: no comment except on the problem of coordination. The logging of translations and search of the log to prevent duplications would tie in closely with the "bibliographic services".

c. Foreign Language Board:

modifications: create an "IAC Documentation & Translation Board"
responsibility: planning, implementing and coordination programs in the fields of document collection, indexing and translation.

functions: Collection

- develop IAC channels
- disseminate information of receipts
- coordinate IAC briefing
- reproduce scarce materials (microfilming programs
at collection or receiving points)

Documentation

- central classification scheme for subject cataloging
- allocation of record responsibility
- coordinate bibliographical services
- provide for union cataloging, loan and inter-library
loan of publications, enclosure materials

Translation

- Index
- Schedule new projects (reconcile priorities)
- Disseminate product